

Town of Sharpsburg 2006-2026 Comprehensive Plan:

Community Participation Program





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Town of Sharpsburg, Georgia Community Participation Program **2006-2026 Comprehensive Plan Update**

Introduction

One of the best ways to strengthen communities is to create opportunities for citizens to work collaboratively on the challenges that shape their community. Accomplishing this requires political leadership, citizen education, and active involvement. A successful comprehensive plan begins with a process of thinking about and visualizing the future. This Community Participation Program was crafted with these principles in mind and establishes a two-way communication between local citizens and their government officials, with the overall goal of better decisions supported by the public.

The Town of Sharpsburg adopted a Comprehensive Plan July 11, 2004 (2024 Plan) in conjunction with their new Town Plan. The 2004 efforts included an aggressive public participation program that resulted in the development of an innovative Town Plan and the 2024 Plan. This Community Participation Program describes those public involvement efforts that were accomplished as part of the 2024 Plan. To supplement and update the 2024 plan efforts, the Town will be doing additional Public Involvement work in accordance with the Advanced Planning Level Local Planning Requirements from the Georgia Department of Community Affairs (DCA), effective May 1, 2005.

Identification of Stakeholders

The Town Council, staff, and consultants have worked together to identify those individuals and groups that have a special interest in the development of the community agenda for the Town of Sharpsburg. The key Stakeholders are typically representatives from the general public, residents, professionals, business and industry leaders, church and civic leaders, media representatives, special interest groups, Town staff and elected officials. It is important that the Stakeholder group consist of a diverse assortment of local representatives with different perspectives on the issue.

Mayor & Sharpsburg Town Council

Town of Sharpsburg Mayor, Wendell L. Staley

J. Clay Cole

Larry W. Hyde

Derrick G. McElwaney

Standly D. Parten

Town of Sharpsburg Staff

Robin L. Spradlin, Town Administrator/Finance Officer

Donna M. Camp, Town Clerk

Town Attorney – David P. Winkle, Ross Burris, Jon Kendall – Powell Goldstein

Precision Planning – Joe Walter

Eco-Logistics – Luke Bethea, Britt Hall

Residents of Sharpsburg

All Sharpsburg residents will be mailed invitations to the Open House

Garden Club – Rosalie Gage



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Library Committee – Margaret Staley, Chairman; Donna M. Camp, Secretary; David Yankee, Beverly LaJoie, Celene Davenport

Developers

Pathway Communities, Inc.
Tom Reese – Reese Developers

Winston Skinner – Times-Herald
Candace LaForge, President – Newnan-Coweta Chamber of Commerce

Participation Techniques

Town Meeting and Visual Preference Survey

The first step in the planning process was the Town Meeting on February 16, 2004. At this meeting it was first announced that the Town of Sharpsburg was going to prepare both a Town Plan and a new Comprehensive Plan.

As part of the Town Meeting, discussions were held with the residents of Sharpsburg to explain the necessity of planning for the future and to outline the planning process. The meeting also included a Visual Preference Survey. Participants evaluated a series of visual images and were asked to select their preferred types, styles and patterns of development.

The outcome of the first public hearing was a consensus of opinion from the residents and Mayor and Council on the general vision of the future of Sharpsburg. Subsequent workshops were held to continue the involvement of citizens in preparation of the Town Plan.

Charettes

Three Charettes were held in early 2004. The first charette was held on February 26 and included a TND Workshop and further development of Community Goals. At the second charette held on March 9 a Schematic Concept Plan was presented. The Concept Plan was based on Community Input in the Town Meeting, the Visual Preference Survey and first charette. Participants were invited to provide additional input. The Draft Concept Plan was presented at the third charette. Growth factors were discussed along with Schematic Concept Plans for the Historic Core Area and for a Typical Annexation Area Site.

Town Plan Presentation

On May 3, 2004, the draft Town Plan was completed and presented to the residents of Sharpsburg at an announced meeting.



Comprehensive Plan Workshops

Two Comprehensive Plan Workshops were held in June. At these meetings, the vision established by the Town Plan was re-visited and the requirements for preparation of the Comprehensive Plan were discussed. These meetings featured interactive, small group sessions. The outcomes of these meetings were an endorsement of the vision established by the community through this planning process and an understanding of the requirements of a Comprehensive Plan.

The 2024 Plan was presented to the public at a meeting in July, 2004. The vision, policy recommendations, and work programs were a direct result of the public participation efforts.

Informational Meeting With Town Council

This event was held in December of 2005. The Consultants responsible for preparing the 2026 Comprehensive Plan presented the planning process to the Town Council. The meeting emphasized the new Local Planning Requirements from the Georgia Department of Community Affairs (DCA), effective May 1, 2005. Additionally, the purpose and approach of the 2026 plan were covered and the questions and concerns of the Town Council were addressed.

Public Hearing

As required under the state minimum standards, an initial public meeting will take place on February 6, 2006. The purpose of this hearing is to brief the community on the potential issues and opportunities identified through the Community Assessment, obtain input on the proposed Community Participation Program, and notify the community of when these plan components will be transmitted to the regional development center. After the public comments have been addressed, the Community Assessment and Community Participation Program will be transmitted to the regional development center by resolution of the Town Council.

Open House

An Open House, scheduled for April 10, 2006, will be an opportunity for participants to review and comment on the Draft Community Agenda. The Open House will serve to ensure that all development and land use issues have been identified and that the input received during the process has been reflected in the draft Community Agenda. It will allow high-level interaction and participation, enabling participants to engage in comfortable two-way dialogue. Stations will include displays, comment cards, handouts, and other informational materials. Formal written comments, collected at the conclusion of the Open House, will be summarized and responded to in the Draft Community Agenda. The Open House will be 2 hours in length and will take place after the Town has had an opportunity to review and comment on the draft Community Agenda.

Final Public Hearings



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The Community Agenda will be presented during a regular Town Council meeting after a period of public review. The hearing will occur before transmittal to the Chattahoochee-Flint Regional Development Center (RDC) for regional and state review. The purpose of this hearing is to brief the community on the contents of the Community Agenda, provide an opportunity for residents to make final suggestions, additions or revisions, and notify the community of when the Community Agenda will be submitted to the RDC for review. After public comments have been addressed, the Community Agenda will be transmitted to the RDC by resolution of the governing body.

After the RDC and DCA review the Community Agenda, the final draft will be presented to the Town Council and the public for adoption at a regular Town Council meeting.

Schedule For Community Agenda

The following is the schedule for completion of the Community Agenda.

February 16, 2004	TOWN MEETING
February 26, 2004	CHARETTE 1
March 9, 2004	CHARETTE 2
March 24, 2004	CHARETTE 3 – Concept Plan
May 3, 2004	TOWN PLAN PRESENTATION
June 1, 2004	COMPREHENSIVE PLAN WORKSHOP
June 28, 2004	COMPREHENSIVE PLAN WORKSHOP
July 26, 2004	COMPREHENSIVE PLAN PRESENTATION
December 9, 2005	INFORMATIONAL MEETING
February 6, 2006	PUBLIC HEARING
April 10, 2006	OPEN HOUSE
June & August, 2006	PUBLIC HEARINGS



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Community Agenda	2004									2005			2006								
	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	
Preliminary Visioning: Town Plan and 2004-2024 Comprehensive Plan																					
Town Meeting & VPS																					
Charette 1	■																				
Charette 2		■	■																		
Charette 3			■	■																	
Town Plan Presentation					■	■															
Comprehensive Plan Workshops						■	■														
Comprehensive Plan Presentation							■														
2006-2026 Plan Update																					
Informational Meeting with Town Council											■										
Public Hearing													■	■							
Open House															■	■					
Public Hearing																	■	■	■		